



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/687,809	10/20/2003	Shoichiro Yamada	NAK-065-USA-P	2464
27955	7590	11/08/2005	EXAMINER	
TOWNSEND & BANTA c/o PORTFOLIO IP PO BOX 52050 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			YANG, CLARA I	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2635	

DATE MAILED: 11/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/687,809

Applicant(s)

YAMADA, SHOICHIRO

Examiner

Clara Yang

Art Unit

2635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: In Fig. 14A, the first step (1) of a deliveryman requesting an article-receiving person to reserve a delivery box (see page 57 of the specification). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the examiner does not accept the changes, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the maximum length of 150 words has been exceeded. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - Page 22: In the first paragraph of the description of preferred embodiments, "diagram" is misspelled, and "and" should be inserted prior to "FIG. 3 is a block diagram..."
 - Page 23: In the paragraph beginning with "In FIGS. 1, 2, and 4," the last sentence requires a comma after "(DPE)".
 - Page 24: The meaning of "the compartments of the yards in which the delivery boxes 2 are installed" (see lines 6-8) is unclear.

- Page 25: In the paragraph beginning with "The mobile phone 1 is provided with a radiowave transmitter 1c of a short distance radio standard making use of an infrared ray communication", infrared is the band of electromagnetic wavelengths between the extreme of the visible part of the spectrum (about 0.75 μm) and the shortest microwaves (about 100 μm). Radio frequency, however, is the band of electromagnetic wavelengths between 500 KHz and 300 GHz. The examiner suggests changing the sentence to "The mobile phone 1 is provided with a radiowave transmitter 1c of a short distance radio standard, such as Bluetooth™ and the like, thereby enabling short distance radio communication between the mobile phone 1 and the radiowave receiver 3k disposed on the delivery box 2's control panel 3."
- Page 26: In the paragraph beginning with "Accordingly," change "which can transmits" to "which can transmit".
- Page 27: In the fifth line from the bottom, insert a comma after "the number of a reserved delivery box 2 inherent to it".
- Page 30: In lines 8-9, the examiner suggests changing the phrase "The working area temporarily stores the data being instructed by the CPU 6" to "The working area temporarily stores the data being executed by the CPU 6". The examiner further suggests: (1) inserting "and" before "the reserved box ID information" in line 10 and (2) changing the last sentence on the page to "The door of the delivery box 2 is in a so-called automatically locked state in which it is locked at all times before it is used, thereby preventing the delivery box 2 from being used in a prank or as a junk box."
- Page 32: Change "such as the start, the end, the cancel of a reservation, and the like" to "such as the start and end of a reservation, the cancellation of a reservation, and the like". In the second line from the bottom, change "the delivery box 2 is reserved" to "the delivery box 2 is to be reserved".
- Pages 33-34: Change the last paragraph beginning on page 33 to "It should be noted that when the mobile phone 1 is in front of the reserved delivery box 2, the mobile phone 1 may inquire the mobile phone number and a personal ID, such as the membership ID number and the like, used for reserving the delivery box 2 by making a phone call to a designated phone number and transmitting the mobile phone 1's own phone number as shown in FIG. 2."
- Page 34: Insert a comma after "a reservation made once is cancelled" (see the seventh line from the bottom). The examiner also suggests changing the phrase "is fixed" to "is displayed" (see last two paragraphs).
- Page 35: Replace "fixed", which appears multiple times on the page, to "highlighted".

Art Unit: 2635

- Page 45: In the last line of the page, "message" is misspelled.
- Page 56: In the fourth line from the bottom, change "thin" to "that".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: In the limitation concerning the navigation execution means, change "as well as guiding the moving body from the present position thereof to the moving destination where the particular delivery box is installed by the navigation means based on the position information of the particular delivery box" to "as well as enabling the navigation means to guide the moving body from the present position thereof to the moving destination where the particular delivery box is installed based on the position information of the particular delivery box" to avoid misinterpretation that the navigation means installed the delivery box. Appropriate correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-14 are allowed.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a delivery box system comprising: (a) delivery box position storage means for storing position information of the positions where delivery boxes are installed; (b) delivery box position information output means for outputting position information of a particular delivery box to be used based on the position information stored in the box position information storage means; (c) a navigation means for measuring a moving body's present position, displaying the moving body's present position on a map based on the moving body's measured present position, and guiding the moving body from the present position to a moving destination (i.e., the delivery box destination) based on input moving

destination information (i.e., the delivery box's position information); (d) navigation execution ID information relating means for relating the particular delivery box's position information provided by the delivery box position information output means to navigation execution ID information, which identifies a navigation program and causes the navigation means to execute navigation by inputting moving destination information; and (e) navigation execution means for (1) receiving the navigation execution ID information and the particular delivery box's position information that are related to each other by the navigation execution ID information relating means, (2) executing the navigation by the navigation means based on the navigation execution ID information, as well as (3) enabling the navigation means to guide the moving body from the present position to the moving destination where the particular delivery box is installed based on the position information of the particular delivery box.

Yofu (US 2002/0052688) teaches a client-side terminal for ordering delivery of services to a delivery destination and a shop-side terminal for receiving the order and instructing delivery of the service to the delivery destination. The client-side terminal includes a display for displaying map information and an order information transmission device for transmitting the order and the delivery destination's position information. The shop-side terminal includes a display for displaying map information and a route information generation device for generating route information for a route to the delivery destination based on the received position information. (See Figs. 1 and 2; and Sections [0013]-[0016].) Yofu's route information generation device resides in navigation apparatus 14, which is a navigation apparatus for vehicles, and is connected to current position detection section 55, which performs map matching (see Sections [0074]-[0080]). Yofu is silent on a database for storing position information of delivery boxes and a central computer that provides a particular delivery box's

Art Unit: 2635

position information, which is then used by the route information generation device for generating route information. Instead, Yofu teaches that a delivery destination's position information generated based on the address of the delivery destination, which is entered at the client-side terminal by a user (see Sections [0060]-[0064]). Yofu's system also lacks navigation execution ID information relating means for relating the particular delivery destination's position information to navigation execution ID information.

Muramatsu (US 2002/0173906) teaches a portable navigation device and system, as shown in Fig. 1, comprising: (a) destination database 80 for storing position information of destinations (see Sections [0041] and [0042]); (b) navigation server 50 for providing position information of a particular destination stored in destination database 80 (see Sections [0039] and [0043]-[0046]); and (c) cellular phone 1's navigation means formed by (1) global positioning system (GPS) module 108 for determining cellular phone 1's present position and (2) display 118 for displaying cellular phone 1's present position on a map and the destination based on the position information from destination database 80 (see Sections [0074]-[0077] and [0080]. Muramatsu's system lacks navigation execution ID information relating means for relating a destination's position information to an ID of a navigation program and a navigation execution means for receiving the ID of a navigation program and executing the identified navigation program that guides the user of cellular phone 1 to the destination.

Moreno (US 6,882,269) teaches a system and process for securing goods delivered to and retrieved from a secure storage unit. As shown in Fig. 1, Moreno's system includes: (a) database 108 for storing locker locations (i.e., delivery box position information) (see Col. 4, lines 4-10 and Col. 10, lines 31-34); and (b) server 102 for providing lock locations stored in database 108 (see Col. 3, lines 60-65; Col. 4, lines 4-15 and 66-67; Col. 5, lines 1-10; Col. 6, lines 39-50; and Col. 10,

Art Unit: 2635

lines 9-34). Moreno's system lacks: (1) navigation means, (2) navigation execution ID information relating means, and (3) navigation execution means.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- McCarty et al. (US 5,946,660) teach an automated storage system comprising a plurality of self-storage facilities that are networked to a central command center.
- Stephens et al. (US 6,323,782) teach an unattended item delivery system comprising an enclosure that is equipped with a GPS transceiver for providing a signal indicative of its present position.
- Hara (US 2003/0222760) teaches a locker system having a central management center for handling locker reservation requests.
- Gokcebay et al. (US 6,791,450) teach a system comprising a central system processor that controls lockers at various locations. The central system processor enables the reservation and monitoring of lockers.
- Booth et al. (US 6,879,243) teach a locker system having a locker database 48 for storing the locker locations and a system control unit 24 for controlling access to and assignment of a plurality of lockers.

8. This application is in condition for allowance except for the formal matters described in the preceding sections.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Art Unit: 2635

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clara Yang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3062. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM, Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik can be reached on (571) 272-3068. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CY
2 November 2005



BRIAN ZIMMERMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER